

receiving a request specifying a selection of stocks from a database of stock information;

identifying stocks from the specified selection having buyback ratios, wherein a buyback ratio corresponds to a percentage of shares of issued stock repurchased from the public during a specified period and resulting in a decrease of shares outstanding; and

providing an investment selection selecting at least one of the identified stocks with buyback ratios and reflecting a metric associated with performance of a company corresponding to the at least one selected stock.

52. (NEW) The method of claim 51, wherein the metric is selected from the group comprising a price/sales ratio and a price/earnings ratio, for each stock.

53. (NEW) The method of claim 52, wherein the database includes a market cap value table for identifying a market cap value of each company, and wherein the step of providing an investment selection includes the substeps of

selecting the price/sales ratio for the companies in a top half of the market cap table; and

selecting the price/earnings ratio for the companies in a bottom half of market cap table.

54. (NEW) The method of claim 51, further comprising:

accessing a Standard and Poor index; and wherein the step of identifying stocks includes the substep of

identifying any companies having buyback ratios based on information from the Standard and Poor index.

55. (NEW) The method of claim 51, further comprising:
accessing a database with information corresponding to a Dow Jones Industrial Average, and

wherein the step of identifying stocks includes the substep of
identifying any companies having buyback ratios based on the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

56. (NEW) The method of claim 51, wherein the step of identifying stocks based on information in the Dow Jones Industrial Average database includes the substep of:
identifying the stocks in accordance with a buyback selection level.

57. (NEW) The method of claim 56, wherein the buyback selection level is a price value of the stocks repurchased.

58. (NEW) The method of claim 56, wherein the buyback selection level is a numerical volume of the stocks repurchased.

59. (NEW) The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of:
outputting a report.

60. (NEW) The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of:
storing a report in a storage medium.

61. (NEW) An apparatus for selecting investments or potential investments, comprising:
a receiving module configured to receive a request specifying a selection of stocks from a database of stock information;
an identifying module configured to identify stocks from the specified selection having buyback ratios, wherein a buyback ratio corresponds to a percentage of shares of issued stock repurchased from the public during a specified period and resulting in a decrease of shares outstanding; and
a generating module configured to provide an investment selection selecting at least one of the identified stocks with buyback ratios and reflecting a metric associated with performance of a company corresponding to the at least one selected stock.
62. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the metric is selected from the group comprising a price/sales ratio and a price/earnings ratio, for each stock.
63. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 62, wherein the database includes a market cap value table for identifying a market cap value of each company, and wherein the generating module configured to generate a report includes:
a selecting module configured to select the price/sales ratio for the companies in a top half of market cap table; and
a selecting module configured to select the price/earnings ratio for the companies in a bottom half of market cap table.

BOX REISSUE

PATENT

Customer No. 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 407027.0001-01

B'f

Rec'd 10/10/00

64. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 61, further comprising:
an accessing module configured to access a Standard and Poor index; and
wherein the identifying module configured to identify stocks includes:
an identifying module configured to identify any companies having buyback ratios
based on information from the Standard and Poor index.

65. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 61, further comprising:
an accessing module configured to access a database with information
corresponding to a Dow Jones Industrial Average, and
wherein the identifying module configured to identify stocks includes:
an identifying module configured to identify any companies having buyback ratios
based on the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

66. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the identifying module configured to
identify stocks based on information in the Dow Jones Industrial Average database
includes:
an identifying module configured to identify the stocks in accordance with a
buyback selection level.

67. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the buyback selection level is a price
value of the stocks repurchased.

68. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the buyback selection level is a
numerical volume of the stocks repurchased.

69. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 61, further comprising:

BOX REISSUE

PATENT

Customer No. 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 407027.0001-01

B/C

Q1 Countd

an outputting module configured to output the report.

70. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 61, further comprising:
a storing module configured to store the report on a storage medium.

71. (NEW) A computer program product comprising:
a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for selecting investments or potential investments, the computer usable medium comprising:
a receiving module configured to receive a request specifying a selection of stocks from a database of stock information;
an identifying module configured to identify stocks from the specified selection having buyback ratios, wherein a buyback ratio corresponds to a percentage of shares of issued stock repurchased from the public during a specified period and resulting in a decrease of shares outstanding; and
a generating module configured to provide an investment selection selecting at least one of the identified stocks with buyback ratios and reflecting a metric associated with performance of a company corresponding to the at least one selected stock.

72. (NEW) The computer usable medium of claim 71, wherein the metric is selected from the group comprising a price/sales ratio and a price/earnings ratio, for each stock.

73. (NEW) The computer usable medium of claim 72, wherein the database includes a market cap value table for identifying a market cap value of each company, and wherein the generating module configured to generate a report includes:

LAW OFFICES
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT,
& DUNNER, L.L.P.
1300 I STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202-408-4000

BOX REISSUE
PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 407027.0001-01

BB
cont'd

a selecting module configured to select the price/sales ratio for the companies in a top half of market cap table; and

a selecting module configured to select the price/earnings ratio for the companies in a bottom half of market cap table.

74. (NEW) The computer usable medium of claim 71, further comprising:

an accessing module configured to access a Standard and Poor index; and
wherein the identifying module configured to identify stocks includes:

an identifying module configured to identify any companies having buyback ratios based on information from the Standard and Poor index.

75. (NEW) The computer usable medium of claim 71, further comprising:

an accessing module configured to access a database with information corresponding to a Dow Jones Industrial Average, and

wherein the identifying module configured to identify stocks includes:
an identifying module configured to identify any companies having buyback ratios based on the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

76. (NEW) The computer usable medium of claim 71, wherein the identifying module configured to identify stocks based on information in the Dow Jones Industrial Average database includes:

an identifying module configured to identify the stocks in accordance with a buyback selection level.

LAW OFFICES
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT,
& DUNNER, L.L.P.
1300 I STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202-408-4000